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Sallie D. Allen, Editor

CONTENTS

HORTICULTURE NORTHWEST TEN YEAR INDEX

| | |
|---|----|
| Artists | 1 |
| Authors | 2 |
| Subjects | 7 |
| Arboretum Gets Spring Cleaning | 16 |
| David Hancocks Joins Arboretum Project | 17 |
| NOHS Financial Review 1984 | 18 |
| Book Review | 19 |
| The 1985 Seed Exchange | 20 |
| Tidbits | 21 |



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HORTICULTURE NORTHWEST

Ten Year Index

1974 to 1984

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Ten-Year Index of the N.O.H.S. Journals - 1974-1984

The Authors:

- ADAMS, DR. E. BLAIR
Those Changing Fall Colors 74-5:1
- ALLEN, SALLIE D.
Alpines '81 - Report 81-3:46
Alpines '81 - Report 81-3:52
Blechnum Penna-marina 74-2:6
Book Review 76-1:12
Book Review 76-4:52
Book Review 83-1:15
Cladothamnus Pyrolaeiflorus 74-4:4
Coptis Asplenifolia 75-3:35
Cultivars of Difficult Plants 74-3:12
Cuttings - Rhododendron 74-1:5
Editorial 78-2:17
From the Ericaceae Notebook: Northwest
Phyllodoce 75-2:19
Food for Thought 75-4:48
The Genus Ledum 76-3:34
Introducing Horticulture Northwest
77-1:1
Introducing Linnaea Borealis 'Tiffany'
82-4:75
Ketchikan Muskegs 80-4:71
Loiseleuria Procumbens 80-4:73
Myrica Californica 77-1:11
1975 in Review 75-4:59
N.O.H.S. Supports Sikkim Expedition
83-1:5
Okanogan Delights 83-1:5
Save the Berry Garden 77-3:44
Three Northwest Gaultheria 75-1:3
Yellowknife, N.W. Territory 81-4:71
- ALVERSON, Ed
Mysteries of Polystichum Californicum
82-2:21
Polypodium Scouleri 82-3:42
- BADGER, BOB
Weevil Control 74-1:6
- BADGER, MARGE (MRS. ROBERT)
R. Campylogynum var. Rhododendron Myrtilloides 74-1:3
- BAGGETT, JAMES
Polystichum Setiferum 74-2:5
- BAILEY, FRAN (MRS. CHARLES H.)
Cuttings 74-3:8
- BAIRD, MARGE (MRS. HUGH)
On the Joys of Observation 80-2:34
Poem: Pear Trees 77-2:22
Seeds 82-3:47
Reports: Propagation Workshop 80-1:15
Rhododendron Study Group
77-2:29
Rhododendron Study Group
77-4:61
Rhododendron Study Group
78-3:51
Rhododendron 'Juan de Fuca' 76-1:6
Seed Exchange 83-2:36
(with Sylvia Duryee) Seeds and
Propagation 83-1:7
- BALLARD, NAN (MRS. PAGE)
Alpines '81 - Report 81-3:50
Alpines '81 - Report 82-2:36
Book Review (2) 77-4:59
Book Review 83-2:38
Cyclamen 74-5:5
- BASS, PAT (MRS. GORDON)
Northwest Natives for Bonsai 75-2:16
- BASSETT, ALICE
Cornus Mas 74-5:4
- BETHEL, DR. JAMES S.
Union Bay Arboretum 75-1:1
- BLACK, MARVIN
Alpines '81 - Report 81-3:46
Alpines '81 - Report 83-1:13
Book Review 79-3:58
Book Review 82-2:29
Book Review 82-4:80
Clematis Tangutica 81-2:21
Creeping Snowberry 78-4:68
Groundcovers: Cornus Canadensis 82-3:46
London Drives - New Service 81-4:65
Native Plants for Indoor Arrangements
79-3:52
Osmaronia Cerasiformis 79-1:1
Synthyris Reniformis 77-1:13
- BLEDSE, ELIZABETH "SIS" (MRS. CLARENCE)
Have You Ever Washed a Bumblebee?
74-3:7
- BLOGG, JANE (MRS. AINSWORTH)
Bonsai 76-2:21
Prunus 'Hally Jolivette' 78-3:48
- BOBBIT, VAN M.
Garden Renovation (with Dr. John A. Wott)
83-3:51
- BRIGGS, BEN T.
Monotropa Uniflora 77-2:25
- BROWN, RICHARD A.
The Longwood Program 77-4:60
- BURLINGAME, JOAN
Horticultural Therapy 81-2:28
- CAREY, KATHERINE
A Garden Pest: The Mole 79-1:2
- CARMAN, ED
Actinidia Chinensis 77-4:56
- CARVER, NANCY
Native Trees and Shrubs for the Birds
76-1:1
- CHILD, MRS. GERALD
N.O.H.S. Lecture Series in Tacoma 81-2:24
- CLARK, DR. JAMES R.
New Thoughts on Staking Trees 82-4:65
- COLLINS, WILLIS
Book Review 79-1:16
- COLLMAN, SHARON J.
Cotoneaster Webworm 78-2:30
European Cranefly 82-1:8
Gypsy Moth 81-1:6
Pest Profiles 80-4:69
- DARTS, FRANCESCA (MRS. E.C.)
Phacelia Sericea 79-2:28
- DAVIDSON, ROY
Adiantum Pedatum, Carl English Form 74-2:5

- Arceuthobium Campylopodum 76-1:10
 Bear Grass Experiences 80-3:44
 Bergenias 74-4:2
 Blechnum Spicant 'Highlands Form' 81-4:70
 Book Review 82-3:57
 Dasanthera Penstemons 75-3:27
 Geum Triflorum - Is That All There Is?
 79-3:46
 George Schenk's Wild Garden 81-4:69
 Iris Foetidissima 79-2:21
 Iris Tenas 75-4:56
 Leucothoe Walteri & Darmera Peltata
 79-1:17
 When Is a Weed? 76-4:53
 DEROUX, WENDY (MRS. ROGER)
 Malpighia Coccigera 75-3:34
 DOBBINS, VICKY
 Gaultheria Procumbens 74-5:8
 DOONAN, STEVEN G.
 Schizocodon Soldanelloides var.
 Illicifolia 82-3:48
 DOUGLAS, DAN
 Handicaps (with Dennis Thompson) 79-3:47
 DURYEE, CORNELIA J.
 Poem - A Daughter's View of a Gardening
 Mother 82-1:10
 DURYEE, SYLVIA (MRS. PHILIP)
 Seeds and Propagation (With Marge Baird)
 83-1:7
- EVANS, ALFRED
 Phyllodoce Empetriformis 75-4:42
 Seed Exchange 80-3:56
- FREE, FLORENCE (MRS. A.K.)
 Adiantum Capillus-veneris 78-2:27
 FRENCH, RUBY (MRS. ARCHIE)
 Alpines '81: Report 81-4:65
 FUGLVOG, LYNN (MRS. HAROLD)
 Trillium Ovatum 75-2L18
- GAMBRILL, KENDALL W.
 Rhododendron Species Foundation 81-1:1
 GANDERS, FRED R.
 Spring Wild Flowers of the Gulf Islands
 80-1:4
 GARDINER, JEANNE (MRS. ARTHUR)
 Book Review 83-2:37
 GARDNER, KEN
 Pilot Project 78-3:41
 GASCHK, MILTON
 Acer Capillipes 78-2:25
 Growing & Propagation of Maples,
 Part I 76-4:44
 Growing & Propagation of Maples,
 Part II, Maples in Bonsai
 77-1:3
 Growing & Propagation of Maples,
 Part III 77-2:28
 Growing & Propagation of Maples,
 Part IV 77-3:42
 Perplexities of Tropaeolum Speciosum
 83-1:1
- GREER, DALE
 Platyceriums 74-2:4
 GREER, HAROLD
 Malaysian Rhododendrons 78-3:47
 GRISWOLD, DORIS A. (MRS. WILLIAM)
 Rhododendron Nakaharai 74-4:5
 GROTHAUS, MOLLY (MRS. LOUIS)
 The Berry Botanic Garden 77-4:58
- HALL, NEILL
 Propagation of Ferns from Spores
 74-2:7
 HALLIWELL, BRIAN
 Billardiera Longiflora 79-1:14
 Clianthus Luniceus 78-2:23
 Corokia Cotoneaster - A Natural Bonsai
 Subject 80-4:77
 Eucalyptus Perriniana: Spinning Gum
 80-2:36
 Hoheria 78-4:66
 Hydrangea Petiolaris 81-2:31
 Layers of a Hokkaido Forest
 Part I - Forest Trees 81-4:66
 Part II - Forest Shrubs 82-1:11
 Part III - Forest Floor 82-2:26
 Part IV - Some Japanese Lianes
 82-3:53
 Leptospermum Scoparium 82-3:53
 Lycium Pallidum 80-1:3
 Myosotidium Hortensia 78-1:5
 Prunus Triloba 82-3:61
 Sage 81-1:11
 Screening Plants 83-2:34
 Shepherdia Argentea - Buffalo Berry
 80-3:52
 Snow 84-4:61
 The Tallest & Smallest 83-3:53
 Telopea Truncata - Tasmanian Waratah
 79-3:55
 Tiger Lily 80-1:9
 Tropaeolum Speciosum & Cardiocrinum
 83-2:39
 Uses of Plants from Long Ago
- HARPER, PAM
 My Slide Storing System 80-1:16
 HATCH, REUBEN
 My Favorite Rhododendron Species 74-1:2
 HATHEWAY, WILLIAM H.
 Ribes Sanguineum (with Mareen Kruckeberg)
 78-1:1
 Water Consumption by Trees 76-4:47
 HAYES, MIKE (MRS. FREDERICK)
 Why is a Rose Red? 81-2:33
 HOPKINS, BETH
 Hamamelis Mollis 74-5:4
 HORDER, JOCELYN (MRS. GARRETT)
 Gardening by the Salt Chuck 83-2:21
 Happy Birthday to N.O.H.S. 76-4:54
 HORNING, SALLIE L.
 Susan 76-4:46
 HUME, ED
 Vocational Gardening at the Monroe
 Reformatory 85-4:45
 Horticultural Socieity Helps Arboretum
 80-1:18
 HUSSEY, DOROTHY (MRS. JAMES)
 Gardens of the Governor's Mansion 76-2:22

JAYNES, RICHARD A.
 Mountain Laurel - Cinderella of the
 Forest 77-1:6

JONES, JUDITH
 Dryopteris Sieboldii 79-2:27
 Spore to Sporeling 83-1:9

KAY, REGINALD
 Cheilanthes Argentea 79-2:25

KENADY, MARY
 N.O.H.S. Seed Exchange 80-3:57
 Seed Exchange 80-2:30

KRUCKEBERG, ARTHUR
 Fall Colors for the Colorblind 74-5:2
 Golden Chinquapin 77-2:17

KRUCKEBERG, MAREEN (MRS. ARTHUR R.)
 Alpines '81 - Report 81-3:49
 Notes on Ferns 75-3:31
 Ribes Sanguineum (with William Hatheway)
 78-1:1
 Seeds - Nature's Way 82-4:78
 Unusual Trees & Shrubs 74-4:5

LAUBER, ALICE
 Alpines '81 - Report 81-3:49

LECKENBY, DOROTHY
 Waterfront Trails 74-5:8

LECOMTE, JAMES R.
 Phyllachne Colensoi 74-4:1
 Western American Natives in New Zealand
 75-4:51

LEWIS, CHARLES A.
 A Bouquet for Seattle 82-3:56

LEWIS, ED
 How to Buy & Plant a Camellia 78-1:6
 Sasanqua Camellias 76-1:5

LILE, FRANSI (MRS. C.E.)
 Ceanothus Velutinus 75-3:35

LYCETTE, MARY
 Styx Japonica 76-1:4

LYON, W.L.
 French Hybrid Wine Grapes 76-2:20

MACK, JOANN
 Asphalt to Trees, or Rags to Riches
 75-2:17

MARTORANO, ELIZABETH
 Asplenium Trichomanes 74-2:5

MASON, HOWARD
 Berry Garden Progress Report 78-3:52

MCELWAIN, "GINNY"
 Book Review 78-1:13
 Water Less 79-2:29

MEILLEUR, BRIEN A.
 Alpine Economy 81-1:18
 Ornamental Plant, Medicinal Plant, or
 Weed? 79-3:56

MESSMER, LOU
 Vaccinium Macrocarpon 80-4:65

METHENY, DOROTHY (MRS. DAVID)
 Daboecia 75-3:34

MILLER, ALTHA (MRS. HAROLD H.)
 Asarum Caudatum 75-3:31

Cornus Canadensis 77-2:25
 Disporum, 80-1:12
 Dodecatheon Littorale 76-3:33
 Dryopteris Erythrosora 74-2:6
 Erigeron Aureus & E Compositus 75-2:19
 Polystichum Lonchitis 74-2:6
 Pyrolas of the Northwest 75-1:5
 Seed Propagation 78-1:12
 Soldanella 76-2:27
 Trillium Hibbersonii 76-3:33

MILLER, ELIZABETH C. (MRS. PENDLETON)
 Did You Know 82-4:69
 Groundcovers With Rhododendrons 74-1:5
 Horticultural Research in China 82-3:51
 Northwest Ornamental Horticultural
 Society - History 82-2:31
 Plant Tolerance of Environmental Stress
 80-2:31

MITCHELL, MARSHALL
 Alpines '81 - Report 81-3:48

MULLIGAN, BRIAN O.
 Alpines '81 - Report (with Margaret
 Mulligan) 81-4:64
 Book Review 78-3:50
 Book Review 83-3:56
 Sorbus Prattii 83-1:4
 Taxus Brevifolia 76-3:30

MULLIGAN, MARGARET
 Alpines '81 - Report (with Brian Mulligan)
 81-4:64
 Arctostaphylos in Washington 80-1:10
 Astilbe Species 76-3:31
 Book Review 79-1:16
 Cuttings 74-3:11
 Definition of Species Rhododendrons 74-1:1
 Dryas 77-1:11
 A New Stewartia 78-3:43
 Small Plants to Know and Grow 74-4:4

MULLOY, MILTON S.
 First Aid 77-4:51

MURFITT, REX
 The Last Frontier - the Stewart-Cassiar
 79-1:5

MUTH, SHARON
 Quercus Suber 82-3:44

NEHAMMER, MRS. FRANTZ
 Autumnscape 74-5:2

NELSON, ELMYRA
 Ceanothus Velutinus var. Laevigatus
 76-2:27

NORRIS, C.A.
 Nerines 78-2:28

OLSEN, SUE (MRS. HARRY)
 Adiantum Pedatum var. Subpumilum 80-2:29
 Ask Any Maidenhair 78-2:19
 Asplenium Trichomanes 75-2:15
 Cheilanthes Feei 81-2:37
 English Muffins & Labrador Violets
 80-1:14
 Fern Study Group Activities 80-1:13
 Petroglyphs, Polypods, & Polyyps 77-2:26
 Polystichum Kruckebergii 76-2:18
 Pteridium Aquilinum 74-2:3

- PARISH, MARJORIE
The Swiss National Park 80-4:66
- PEARCE, OWEN
Rhododendron Yakusimanum 74-1:3
- PHILLIPS, MAUREEN
Horticultural Therapy 82-2:37
Plants Growing People 81-3:56
- PINYUH, GEROGE J.
Rhododendron-Ledum Rust 82-3:62
- POPE, BARBARA
Cuttings 74-3:10
- PRADHAN, KESHAB
In Search of Diplarche in the Sikkim Himalayas 81-4:61
- PUTNAM, ROBERT C.
Gardening with Troughs 76-1:10
Pyrrosia Linearifolia 74-4:5
Rosa Luciae var. Onio 74-4:2
A Stellar Performance 75-3:29
- RITCHIE, JAYNE
Book Review 79-2:32
- ROBERSON, FRANCES K.
Alpines '81 - Report 82-1:6
A Question and a Challenge 74-1:2
- RODERICK, WAYNE
Lady Washington Lily 77-4:49
- ROSE, A.A.
Building a Bog Garden 78-2:21
- SCHENK, GEORGE
Digging Ferns in the Wild 83-1:11
Goodbye to the Rose-Covered Cottage 82-4:71
Prayer of an Opinionated Gardener 82-4:68
Sow a Meadow 79-3:39
- SHURR, EDITH C.
Species Roses in the Northwest - Part I 77-3:34
Species Roses in the Northwest - Part II 77-4:53
Species Roses in the Northwest - Part III 78-1:10
- SEYMOUR, DR. P.N.D.
Comments on Seed Exchanges 80-2:35
Devonian Alpine Garden 80-4:62
Devonian Botanic Garden 78-4:61
- SHARP, VERNECE
A Winter Walk Through the Leach Garden 81-1:14
- SHING, K.H.
Fern Research in China 83-2:31
- STARLING, BARRY N.
Arctostaphylos Auriculata 77-3:45
Ericaceous Plants of Iceland 82-1:1
Kalmiopsis Leachiana 75-4:58
Ledum Groenlandicum var. Nanum 76-4:43
Rhododendron Moupinense 74-1:3
- STEEN, DIANE
Fraxinus Ornus 79-2:31
- SUTTON, EILEEN
Rhododendron Leucaspis 74-1:4
Seed Collecting in the Wild 78-1:12
- TAYLOR, ROY L.
Book Review 82-4:79
List of Native Plants 79-3:59
Some Collector's Notes on the Endemics of the Queen Charlotte Isls., B.C. 80-3:41
- TAYLOR, SALLY
Labrador Tea 83-2:29
- TERRILL, ALLEN DALE
Vaccinium Parvifolium, the Wildman of the Garden 76-2:26
- THOMAS, GRAHAM STUART
Poem - Winter 74-5:1
- THOMPSON, DENNIS
Alpines '81 - Report 81-3:51
Book Review 82-1:7
Easy Access Garden (with Dan Douglas & Sally Taylor) 80-3:48
Handicaps (with Dan Douglas) 79-3:47
Miniature Natives in Containers 78-4:63
Pacific Northwest Asters 77-2:23
Pleasures of a Cat's Garden 80-3:54
Some Native Violets for Puget Sound Gardeners (with Marvin Black) 80-2:31
What's In a Name 82-2:37,39
- TICKNOR, R.L.
Edible Ornamentals 81-2:25
- TUKEY, DR. HAROLD B., JR.
Center for Urban Horticulture 82-1:5
The Expanding Programs of the U. of W. Arboreta 80-1:1
International Society for Horticultural Science 82-4:70
Progress at the Center for Urban Horticulture 80-4:61
Urban Horticulture Building Is Begun 83-3:41
- VANKLAVEREN, RICHARD
Holland Tour 81-1:9
- VERTREES, J.D.
The Vine Maple and its Variants 79-2:26
- WADE, DR. L. KEITH
Rhododendron Saxifragoides 76-4:40
- WALKER, SALLY
Choisya Arizonica 80-3:46
Fendlera Rupicola 81-1:16
Lycium Pallidum 80-1:2
Two Sophoras 80-2:38
- WIGHTMAN, ROBERTA
Fall Planting 82-3:41
- WILLIAMS, MAXCINE
Alaska Poppies 79-1:13
Rose-Spotted Ladyslipper 77-3:37
Veronica Grandiflora 78-1:9
- WILTON, PEG (MRS. WILLIAM)
A Day in the Pack Forest 75-3:32
- WITT, JEAN (MRS. JOSEPH)
Some Notes on Dried Plant Materials 81-3:41
Fall for the Natives 78-3:40
Iris Setosa 77-2:21

WITT, JOSEPH A.

How to Landcape Under New
Growth Pressures 80-3:50
Native Treasures 76-1:7
Redwoods & Bald Cypress 78-4:57
Seed Propagation - Rhododendrons 74-1:4
Study, Service, & Satisfaction 75-1:6
U. of W. Arboretum Report 75-4:55

WOODWARD, BOB

Favorite Ferns 74-2:4
Petrophytum 75-4:50
The First..... 74-5:3

WOTT, DR. JOHN A.

Garden Renovation (with Van Bobbitt)
83-3:51

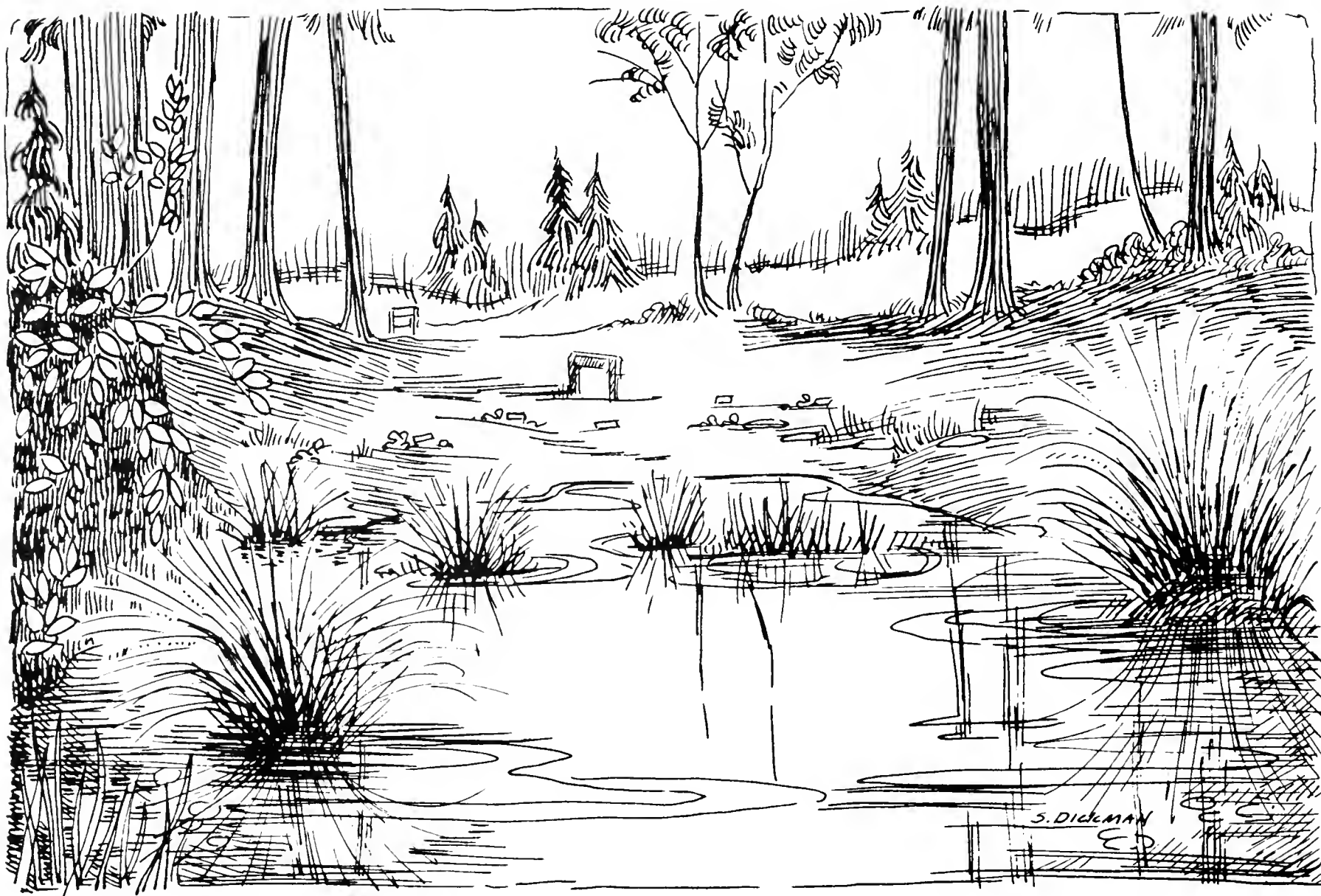


Illustration:

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INDEX BY SUBJECT

(N) Native
 * Illustrated
 ** Cover Illustration

- Abies lasiocarpa (N), for bonsai 75-2:16
Acantholimon venustum 83-2:28*
Acer (also see Maples) A. capillipes 78-2:25
A. capillipes 78-2:25
 circinatum (N) 77-1:2*,5*; 79-2:26
 'Elegans' (N) 79-2:26
 'Monroe' (N) 79-2:26
 grandidentatum (N) 77-2:29
 japonicum 'Vitifolium' 77-2:28
 macrophyllum (N) 81-2:25
 'Kimballiae' (N) 76-1:9
 'Seattle Centinel' (N) 76-1:9
 palmatum 81-4:67
 'Butterfly' 77-3:41
 pruning 82-4:82
 saccharum 77-2:29
Achillea ageratifolia 83-1:3*
Aciphylla spp. 76-2:22
Acorus gramineus 79-2:35
Actinidia arguta 82-3:54
 chinensis 77-4:56
Aesculus turbinata 81-4:67
 Aggie 80-3:55*
Akebia trifoliata 82-3:54
 Alaska wild iris - see Iris setosa
Alchemilla alpina 83-3:55*
 Alder, Red - see Alnus rubra
 Aleutian Speedwell - see Veronica grandiflora
Alnus rubra (N), for bonsai 75-2:16
 'Pinnatisecta' 76-1:9
 Alpines '81 - reports:
 81-3:46,48,49,50,51,52;81-4:64,65;82-1:6;
 82-2:36
 Alpine economy 81-1:18
 Alpine plants (of Swiss National Park)
 80-4:66
Amelanchier alnifolia (N) 83-2:24*
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata 82-3:55
Aquilegia formosa (N)
 Arboreta & Botanic Gardens:
 Arboreta, U. of W. - Expanding Programs
 80-1:1
 Berry Garden, Portland, OR 77-3:44;
 77-4:58;78-3:52
 Devonian Botanic Garden, Univ. of
 Alberta, Edmonton, Alta 78-4:61
 Alpine Garden, at 80-4:62
 English, Carl S., Jr. 75-1:9
 Longwood Program 77-4:60
 Mini arboreta for elementary schools
 75-2:17
 Union Bay Arboretum 75-1:1, 75-4:54*,54;
 76-2:23*,24
 Univ. of Wash. Arboretum 75-4:55
Arbutus unedo 74-4:1*
Arceuthobium campylopodium (N) 76-1:10,10*
 forma tsugensis (N) 75-4:48
Arctostaphylos spp. 76-4:52*
 auriculata 77-3:45
 columbiana (N) 80-1:10,11*
 x media (N) 80-1:10
 nevadensis (N) 80-1:11,11*
 uva-ursi (n) 80-1:10;82-1:3
Arctous (Arctostaphylos)
 rubra 81-4:77*,76
 alpina (N) 81-4:77*,76
 Areca Palm - see Chrysalidocarpus
 lutescens
 Arizona Mountain Laurel - see Sophora
 arizonica
Asarum caudatum (N) 75-3:31*,31
 hartwegii (N) 77-3:38*,40
 Ash - see Fraxinus
Asimina triloba 81-2:26
Aster gormanii (N) 77-2:23
 ledophyllus (N) 77-2:23
 paucicapitatus (N) 77-2:23
 sp. 77-2:23*
Astilbe chinensis pumila 76-3:31
 glaberrima saxatilis 76-3:31
 japonica 'Delicata' 76-3:31
 simplicifolia 76-3:31
Aucuba japonica borealis 82-1:11
 Austrian Copper Rose - see Rosa foetida
 var. bicolor
 Bald Cypress - see Taxodium distichum
 Bedstraw - see Galium trifidum (N)
 Bergenia
 x. 'Gallawley' 74-4:2
 ciliata 74-4:2
 cordifolia 74-4:2
 crassifolia 74-4:2
 x. Pugsley's Purple 74-4:2
 purpurascens 74-4:2
 schmidtii 74-4:2
 x. smithii 74-4:2
 stracheyi 74-4:2
Betula ermanii 81-4:67
 glandulosa 79-1:10*
 maximowiczii 81-4:67
 nana 79-1:10*
 platyphylla 81-4:66
 Bigtree - see Sequoiadendron giganteum
Billardiera longiflora 79-1:14,15*,18
 Birds:
 Native trees & shrubs for 76-1:1
 Recipe for feeding 76-1:3
 Steller jay 75-3:29
 Black, Marvin - Forestry Award to 82-4:73
 Blueberry, climbing - see: Billardiera
 longiflora
 Blue-eyed Mary - see: Collinsia grandiflora
 Bobbitt, Van Michael 82-4:72
 Bog Gardens 78-2:20*,21
 Bonsai:
 Alnus rubra (N) 75-2:11
 Carpinus caroliniana 76-2:21
 Maples 77-1:3;77-3:41
 Northwest Natives 75-2:16
 Prunus 'Hally Jolivette' 78-3:49
 Quercus suber 82-3:44
 Sorbus scopulina (N) 75-2:16
 Books:
 The American Woman's Home by Catherine E.
 Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe
 79-3:61
 Fern references 74-2:1
 on Propagation 74-3:1
 on Rhododendrons 74-1:7

Book Reviews:

- Alaska Trees & Shrubs, by Leslie A. Viereck and Elbert L. Little, Jr. 82-4:80
- The Alaska-Yukon Wild Flower Guide, by Helen A. White 76-1:12
- Aplines '81, Alfred Evans, Editor 83-1:13
- The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady, by Edith Holden 77-4:59
- The Crocus, by Brian Mathew 83-2:37
- Dahlias: A Monthly Guide, by Harold Miller 79-1:16
- Gardening: A Gardener's Dictionary, by Beard & McKie 83-2:38
- Gardening as Therapy for Spring, by Margaret E. Coxon 79-2:33
- Gardening as Therapy for Summer, by Margaret E. Coxon & David Tarrent 79-2:33
- Gardening With Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest, by Arthur R. Kruckeberg 82-4:79
- Hillier's Manual of Trees and Shrubs 77-3:47
- Iris, by Brian Mathew 82-3:57
- Japanese Maples, by J. D. Vertrees 78-3:50
- The Larger Bulbs, by Brian Mathew 79-3:58
- The Laurel Book, by Richard A. Jaynes 77-1:9
- Oxford Encyclopedia of Trees of the World, Bayard Hora, Editor 82-2:29
- Plantae Occidentalis: 200 Years of Botanical Art in British Columbia, by House Maria Newberry 79-2:33
- Plants & Animals of the Pacific N.W., by Eugene N. Kozloff 76-4:52
- Preliminary Directory of Living Plant Collections of North America 83-3:43
- Rhododendron Species, Vol. I, Lepidotes, by H. H. Davidian 83-1:15
- Rock Gardens, Wilhelm Schacht 82-1:7
- Trees & Shrubs for Northwest Gardens, by Gordon Courtwright 83-3:56
- Wild Shrubs, Finding and Growing Your Own, by Joy Spurr 79-1:16
- The World of Irises, Bee Warburton & Melba Hamblen 79-2:32
- Woody Plants in the University of Washington Arboretum, Washington Park, by Brian O. Mulligan 78-1:13

Botanical Drawings:

- Corolla Shapes 76-3:32*
- Flower Parts 75-4:44,44*
- Inflorescences 75-3:30
- Leaf Shapes 76-1:4;77-1:5*
- British Columbia, Northwest 79-1:5

British Columbia, Stewart Cassiar (Map) 79-1:4*

Buffalo-berry - See Shepherdia argentea (N)

Bunchberry - See Cornus canadensis

- Calluna vulgaris 'Darleyensis' 76-3:31
- Camassia cusickii (N) 79-3:44*
- leichtlinii (N) 79-3:44*
- Camellia sasanqua and vars. 76-1:5,5*
- Camellias - buying and planting 78-1:6
- Campanula allionii 83-3:52*
- lasiocarpa 79-1:9*
- scoueri (N) 82-3:63
- Cardiocrinum cordatum glehnii 82-2:28
- Carpinus caroliniana, bonsai 76-2:21
- Cascade aster - See Aster ledophyllus
- Cascara - see Rhamnus purshiana
- Cassinia fulvida 83-3: **
- Cassiope hypnoides 82-1:1,3*
- mertensiana (N) 78-4:71*
- selaginoides 81-3:58
- tetragona (N) 78-4:71*
- Castanopsis chrysophylla (N) 77-2:19
- Ceanothus velutinus (N) 75-3:35
- var. laevogatis (N) 76-2:27,27*
- Celastrus orbiculatus 82-3:53
- Celmisia bellidioides 76-2:22
- Center for Urban Horticulture see: Urban Horticulture
- Cercidiphyllum japonicum 81-4:68
- Chamaecyparis nootkatensis (N) 76-1:5,5*
- Chamaedaphne calyculata 82-1:19
- nana 81-4:72*,74;82-1:16
- Chatham Island Forget-me-not - see Myosotidium hortensia
- Chimaphila maculata 77-4:52
- menziesii (C. umbellata var. occidentalis) (N) 77-4:52
- umbellata (N) 74-3:11;77-4:52
- China
- Fern Research 83-2:31
- Horticultural Research 82-3:51
- Chinquapin, golden - see Chrysolepis chrysophylla
- Choisya arizonica 80-3:46,47*
- mollis 80-3:47
- ternata 80-3:47*
- Chrysalidacarpus lutescens 77-3:39
- Chrysolepis chrysophylla (N) 77-2:**,17,18*
- sempervirens 77-2:19
- Cichorium intybus (N) 79-3:42*
- Cladanthamnus pyrolaeiflorus (N) 74-4:4
- Clematis tangutica 81-2:21,23*;81-3:58; 83-2:35
- Clianthus pinicus 78-2:23,24*
- Cobaea scandens 83-2:35
- Codonopsis ussuriensis 82-3:54
- lanceolata 82-3:54
- Collinsia grandiflora (N) 80-1:8
- Color in flowers & plants 81-2:33
- Fall foliage 74-5:1
- Comandra umbellata (N) 81-3:59
- livida (N) 81-3:59;81-4:71
- Conditioning Christmas Plant Material 74-5:8
- Coptis asplenifolia (N) 75-3:35
- quinquefolia 82-2:27
- trifolia (N) 75-3:36

Cornus canadensis (N) 77-1:5*;77-2:24*,25;
 77-4:63;82-2:26;82-3:**,46
kousa 81-2:26
mas 74-5:4;81-2:26
nuttallii 'Eddiei' 76-1:9
Corodia cotoneaster 80-4:77
Cranberry, American - see Vaccinium
macrocarpon
Cranberry, wild or European - see Vaccinium
oxycoccus
Crowea exalata 78-3:44
Culture
 Banana Skins 82-1:17
 Difficult Plants 74-3:11
 Egg Shells 77-1:14
 Liquinox "Start" 82-4:83
 Maples 77-3:42
 Woodland Plants 77-4:51
Cyclamen spp. 74-5:5
Cypripedium guttatum 77-3:36*,37
montanum (N) 77-4:60*
Calluna vulgaris 'Darleyensis' 76-3:31

Daboecia azorica 75-3:35
cantabrica 'Alba' 75-3:34*,34
 spp. 75-3:34
Daphne kamtschatica 82-1:13
Darmera peltata (Peltiphyllum) (N) 79-1:17
Dawn Redwood - see Metasequoia
glyptostroboidea
Diapensia lapponica 76-1:12*
Displarche multiflora 81-4:61,62*,79;82-1:18
pauciflora 81-4:61,62*,79
Dirca palustris 81-3:45
Diseases
 Brown rot on stone fruits 81-1:19
 Dogwood Anthracnose 81-1:19
 (Glaeosporium sp.) 81-4:69
 Maples 77-3:42
 Rust, Ledum (Chrysomyxa ledicola)
 82-2:38;3:62,63
 Rust, Rhododendron (Chrysomyxa piperiana
 & Chrysomyxa ledi) var. rhododendri)
 82-3:62
Disporum spp. 80-1:12
Dodecatheon littorale (N) 76-3:33*,33
Dog Rose - see Rosa canina
Dried Plant Material 81-3:41
Dryas drummondii (N) 77-1:10*,11
integrifolia (N) 81-4:76,77*
octopetala (N) 77-1:10*,11
 x suendermannii (N) 77-1:11

Earthworms 78-2:26;81-3:55
Eccremocarpus scaber 83-2:34
Edible ornamentals 81-2:25
Edmonds Community College 80-3:48
Education & the Layman 83-3:57
Elliottia racemosa 82-1:16
Embothrium coccineum 83-3:45*
Enkianthus campanulatus 82-1:12
Environmental Stress, Plant tolerance of
 80-2:81
Epimedium grandiflorum 82-2:26.
koreanum 82-2:26

Epiphytes 79-3:53
Ericaceae Slide Library 83-1:19
Ericaceous Plants of Iceland 82-1:1
Erigeron aureus (N) 75-2:19
compositus (N) 75-2:19
Eucalyptus regnans 83-3:53
vernica 83-3:53
perriniana (Spinning Gum) 80-2:36,37*,39
Eucryphia glutinosa 74-4:5
Euonymus fortunei 82-1:11
planipes 82-1:12
oxyphyllus 82-1:12

Fabiana imbricata 81-3:54*,55
Fagus crenata 81-4:67
Fairy Bells - see Disporum
Farrer, Reginald 79-3:49
Fendlera rupicola 81-1:16,18
Ferns:
 Definition 74-2:1
 Collecting 83-1:11
 Propagation 74-2:6;83-1:8*,9
 Research in China 83-2:31
Adiantum capillus-veneris (N)
 78-2:**,27*
pedatum 'Carl English form' (N) 74-2:5
pedatum var. subpumilum (N) 80-2:**,29
reniforme 83-2:33*
 spp. 78-2:18*,19
Asplenium trichomanes (N) 74-2:5;
 75-2:15*,15;82-2:25*
cristatum (N) 75-2:15
incisum (N) 75-2:15
Blechnum penna-marina 74-2:6
spicant 'Highland Form' 81-4:70
Bracken - see Pteridium aquilinum
Braun's Holly-fern - see Polystichum
braunii
Ceterach officinarum 82-3:63
Cheilanthes argentea 79-2:24*,25
feei (N) 81-2:**,37
Dryopteris erythrosora 74-2:6
 var. prolifera 77-3:40
sieboldii 79-2:27
Gymnocarpium dryopteris (N) 82-2:25*
Hartford Fern - see Lygodium palmatum
Lygodium palmatum 82-2:38
Pityrogramma triangularis (N) 82-2:25*
 var. pallida 74-2:4
Platycerium spp. 74-2:3
Polypodium glycyrrhiza (N) 77-2:27
scouleri 77-2:27*,27;82-2:25*,
 -3:42**,43*
Polystichum braunii (N) 75-3:31
californicum (N) 82-2:**,21
dudleyi (N) 82-2:23
imbricans (N) 82-2:22,31
kruehgerii (N) 76-2:18*,18
lonchitis (N) 74-2:6;75-3:31*
munitum (N) 82-2:21,22
setiferum & vars. 74-2:5
Pteridium aquilinum (N) 74-2:3
Scolopendrium vulgare 83-2:33*
Staghorn ferns - see Platycerium
Fertilizing (Rhododendrons) 80-4:79
Fir - see Abies
Firland Correctional Center 78-3:41

Fraxinus americana 79-2:31

bungeana 79-2:31
excelsior 79-2:31
latifolia 79-2:31
ornus 79-2:30*,31

Fungicides:

Bayleton 82-3:62
 Ferbam 82-3:62
 Sulfur 82-3:62

Galium trifidum (N) 77-1:5*

Garden, Easy Access for Handicapped 80-3:48

Governor's Mansion 76-2:22
 Leach (Portland) in Winter 82-1:14
 Renovation 83-3:51
 U.B.C. Bog Garden 78-2:20*

Garry Oak - see Quercus garryana

Garrya elliptica (N) 74-5:1*;77-1:5*

fremontii (N) 82-1:**

Gaultheria humifusa (N) 75-1:3

ovatifolia (N) 75-1:3
procumbens 74-5:8
shallon (N) 75-1:3;77-1:12;79-3:53*

Gentiana asclepiadea 82-2:27

triflora 82-2:27

Geum triflorum (N) 79-2:**;-3:46*,46

Girtch, C.M. - N.O.H.S. Award 83-1:19

Glaucidium palmatum 82-2:27

Glossary of Terms 74-1:2

Goldthread - see Coptis asplenifolia

Goodyera sp. 77-4:52

Grapes, French Hybrid 76-2:20

Groundcovers:

In Japan 82-2:26
 With Rhododendrons 74-1:5
 In Seaside Gardens 83-2:23
Arctostaphylos nevadensis 80-1:11,11*
uva-ursi (N) 80-1:10;82-1:3
Cornus canadensis (N) 77-1:5*;-2:24*,25;
 82-2:26;-3:**;46
Cyclamen spp. 74-5:5
Gaultheria humifusa (N) 75-1:3
ovatifolia (N) 75-1:3
procumbens 74-5:8
Linnaea borealis var. americana (N)
 78-4:72;81-4:73;82-4:75
longiflora (N) 82-4:75,76*
'Tiffany' (N) 82-4:75,76*
Pachysandra terminalis 82-2:26
Rubus calycinoides 77-4:62
Vaccinium macrocarpon 80-4:**;65,65*,79
oxycoccus 80-4:65

Gulf Islands, B.C., Wild Flowers 80-1:4

Gunnera monoica 76-2:21

Halstead, William 82-4:72

Harison's Yellow Rose - see Rosa harisonii

Hamamelis japonica 82-1:12

mollis 74-5:4*,4

Handicaps 79-3:47

Hardy Plants Society 81-1:4,5

Heather, Western Moss - see Cassiope

mertensiana

White Mountain - see Cassiope tetragona

Helianthemum alpestre 74-4:4

Helleborus sp. 82-1:15*

Hemlock - see Tsuga

Hepatica nobilis japonica 82-2:27

Herbals, Excerpts from 78-3:37

Woodcuts from 78-3:38*

Herbicides, Round-up 83-1:18

Hoheria glabrata 78-4:66,67*

lyallii 78-4:66,67*

Hogness, John R. Letter from 75-4:53

Horticulture Northwest, introducing 77-1:1

Horticultural Conference, 1982 82-2:37

Information 82-4:69

Research in China 82-3:51

Therapy 78-2:17;79-1:19;81-2:28;81-3:56

Hoyt, Fred 82-4:72

Hudson Bay (or Newfoundland) Rose - see

Rosa blanda

Hudsonia ericoides 76-2:21

tomentosa 76-2:21

Hydrangea macrophylla 82-1:12

var. megacarpa 82-1:12

petiolaris 81-2:31;82-3:53

xanthoneura 74-4:5

Iceland, Ericaceous Plants 82-1:1

Ilex crenata 'Dwarf Pagoda' 77-4:57,57*

'Green Dragon' 77-4:57

'Mariesii' 75-4:57

sugerokii peduncularis 82-1:12

Indian Pipe - see Monotropa uniflora

Ireland, The Burren 82-2:36

Iris ensata 77-2:21

foetidissima 79-2:21,22*

hookeri 77-2:22

kaempferi 77-2:21

Pacific Coast Natives 78-3:40

reticulata 77-1:15

setosa 77-2:20*,21

ssp. canadensis 77-2:22

interior 77-2:22

'Kirigamine' 77-2:21

f. platyryncha 77-2:22

sibirica 81-3:41,42*

tenax 75-4:56,56*

f. gormanii (N) 77-2:22

'Valley Banner' (N) 81-2:39*

versicolor 77-2:22

Irish Bell Heather - see Daboecia

Irrigation 79-2:29

Isopyrum savilei 80-3:41

Japan, Forest Floor 82-2:26

Forest Trees 81-4:66

Forest Shrubs 82-1:11

Forest Lianes 82-3:53

Japanese Iris - see Iris ensata

Jekyll, Gertrude 79-3:49

Juglans ailantifolia 81-4:67

Juniperus communis (N) 82-4:**

Kalmia angustata 77-1:6

angustifolia 77-1:6

cuneata 77-1:6

ericoides 77-1:6
hirsuta 77-1:6,7*
latifolia 77-1:6,7*
 f. fuscata 77-1:7
 f. myrtifolia 77-1:7
 f. polypetala 77-1:7
microphylla 77-1:6;83-2:30
polifolia 77-1:6;83-2:30
Kalmiopsis leachiana 75-4:57*,58
Kinnikinnick (Bearberry) - see
 Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Kiwi fruit and gelatine 80-1:14
Kiwi Vine - see Actinidia chinensis

Labrador Tea - see Ledum
Lake Ozette 77-2:26
Landscaping 78-3:45
 Under New Environmental Pressures 80-3:50
Larix laricina 81-4:72*,73
 leptolepis 81-3:**
 x Ledodendron 'Brilliant' 77-2:30;-3:46
Ledum decumbens 76-3:34;81-4:74,75*
 glandulosum (N) 76-3:34,35*;83-2:30
 g. var. columbianum (N) 77-1:12
 groenlandicum (N) 81-4:74,75*;83-2:29
 g. compact form 78-2:34
 g. var. nanum 76-4:43
 palustre 76-3:35;81-4:74;83-2:29
Leptospermum scoparium & vars. 82-4:66,67*
Leucothoe walteri (L. fontanesiana) 79-1:17
Lewisia rediviva (N) 75-3:36*
 tweedyi (N), propagation 82-4:83
Ligustrum tschonoskii 82-1:11
Lilium columbianum (N) 80-1:9
 bolanderi 77-4:49
 lancifolium 82-2:28
 medeoloides 82-2:28
 washingtonianum (N) 77-4:**;49,50*
 var. minus (N) 77-4:49
 var. purpurascens (N) 77-4:49
Lily, Cascade - see Lilium washingtonianum
 var. purpurascens
 Washington - see Lilium washingtonianum
Linnaea borealis var. americana (N)
 78-4:72;81-4:73;82-4:75
 var. longiflora (N) 82-4:75,76*,77*
 'Tiffany' (N) 82-4:75,76*
Liriope graminifolia - see Ophiopogon
 spicatus
Lithocarpus densiflorus 78-3:45
 f. attenuato-dentatus 78-3:46
 echinoides 78-3:45,46*;80-3:53*
Lithophragma parviflora (N) 80-1:7*
Loiseleuria procumbens 80-4:73,75*
London Drives, A New Service 81-4:65
Loudon, John 79-3:47
Lupinus sp. 77-1:5*
Lycium pallidum 80-1:2,3,3*
Lysichiton americanum (N) 76-1:10*;80-4:71

Magnolia kypoleuca (obovata) 81-4:68
 kobus 81-4:68
Malpighia coccigera 75-3:34*,34
Manzanita, Hair - see Arctostaphylos
 columbiana

Maples - also see Acer for bonsai
 77-1:3;-3:41
 Canyon - see Acer grandidentatum
 for Fall color 77-2:28
 Growing & Propagation 76-4:44
 Vine - see Acer circinatum
Marurandia barclainua 83-2:35
Meadow Planting 79-3:39
Memorials:
 Kemper Freeman 72-4:81
 Doris Griswold 77-2:22
 Perry Johanson 71-3:45
 Janet Lane 82-1:17
 James Madison 82-1:17
 Isabel Pierce 82-4:81
 Eileen Sutton 81-3:45
 Marty (Mrs. Wendell) Trosper 77-4:56
Metasequoia glyptostroboides
 78-4:57,58*,59
Microcachrys tetragona 83-3:47
Miller, Betty Carey (Mrs. Pendleton) 82-3:51;
 -4:69;83-2:38
Mimulus guttatus (N) 80-1:8
 spp. haidensis 80-3:43
Mistletoe - see Archeuthobium campylopodum
 forma tsugensis
M'Mahon, Bernard 79-3:50
Moles - see Pests
Monkey-flower, Common - see Mimulus guttatus
Monotropa uniflora (N) 77-2:24*,25
Monroe Reformatory - Vocational Program
 75-4:45
Mountain Ribbonwood - see Hoheria
Muskeg 80-4:71
Myrica californica 77-1:**;11
 Pruning 78-3:55
Myosotidium hortensia 78-1:4*,5

Native Plants, List of 79-3:59
Natives, for Arrangements 79-3:52
 for Bonsai 75-2:16
 for Containers 78-4:63
 in New Zealand 75-4:51
 Transplanting 79-3:61
Nerine spp. 78-2:28,29*
New Zealand, American Natives in 75-4:51
Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society
 Article in Seattle Times 80-1:18
 Fabulous Fashions Event 82-2:35
 Gift to Center for Urban Horticulture
 81-1:8
 Grant to C. M. Girtch 83-1:19
 History 82-2:31
 5th International Rock Garden Conference
 81-2:38
 Lectures in Tacoma 81-2:24
 Perry Johanson Memorial Lectures 82-1:13
 Plant Sale Highlights 80-4:70;83-3:44
 Sikkin Expedition 83-1:5
 Spring Garden Tour - 1981 81-1:10
 Tenth Birthday 76-4:54
NOHS Seed Exchange 78-2:32;-3:43;-4:73
 79-1:10;-3:38
 80-2:30,35;-3:56,57
 81-4:78
 82-1:12;-3:47;-4:74,78
 83-2:36,-3:54,55

Study Groups, Beginnings 76-1:16
 Alpine 75-2:24
 Bloomin' Idiots 76-3:37
 Botanical Drawing 75-2:23
 Ericaceae 75-3:38;76-4:52
 Fern 75-2:24;80-1:13
 N.W. Natives 75-2:23
 Rhododendron 75-3:39;76-3:39;81-1:9
 Twigs 75-3:37
 Nomenclature 82-2:37
 Northern Blue Flag - see Iris setosa
Nothofagus fusca, Viability of 80-2:39
obliqua 83-3:50,50*

Okanogan area, Plants of the 78-4:69
 Olympic Aster - see Aster paucicapitatus
Ophiopogon spicatus 79-2:35
 Oregon Blue Flag - see Iris tenas
Osmaronia cerasiformis (Oemleria) (N)
 79-1:*,1

Paeonia obovata 82-2:27
 var. alba 83-1:8
Pachysandra terminalis 82-2:26
 Pac Forest, Charles Lathrop 75-3:32
Papaver alaskanum 79-1:12*,13
alboroseum 79-1:12*,13
macounii 79-1:13
radicatum 79-1:13
walpolei 79-1:12*,13
Parnassia palustris (N) 81-4:76
Peltiphyllum - see Darmera
Penstemon, Dasanthera 75-3:27
berryii (N) 75-3:28
catdwellii (N) 75-3:28
davidsonii (N) 75-3:27*,28
fruticosus 75-3:28
'Charming' (N) 75-3:28
'Mrs. Rutherford' (N) 75-3:28
 var. serratus (N) 75-3:28
 Hybrids (N) 75-3:28
 x 'Keechelus Blush' 75-3:28
menziesii (N) 75-3:28
newberryi (N) 75-3:28
rupicola (N) 75-3:28
 Pesticides, Carbaryl (Seminol) 78-2:31
 Diazonon 78-2:31
 Oxalic acid 77-2:31
 Pests, Cotoneaster webworm (Cremona
cotoneaster) 78-2:30
Cranefly, European (Tipula paludosa)
 82-1:8
 Cut worms 77-1:15
 Dogs 83-3:59
 Gypsy moth 81-1:6
 Mice 77-1:15
 Moles 78-1:14;-2:33;-4:75;79-1:2
 Root weevils 77-4:62;81-1:19
 Slugs 77-1:14,15;-2:31;77-3:46;-4:62
 Weevils 77-2:6
 Petroglyphs 77-2:26
Petrophytum caespitosum (N) 75-4:50
cinerascens (N) 75-4:50
hendersonii (N) 75-4:49*,50

Phacelia sericea (N) 79-2:28*,28
 Photography 79-3:60
Phyllachne colensoi 74-4:1
Phyllodoce aleutica 75-2:21*,21
alpina 75-2:22
breweri 75-2:21*,21
caerulea (N) 75-2:21*,21;82-1:1
empetriformis (N) 75-2:20*,20;-4:42*,42
glanduliflora (N) 75-2:20*,20
 x intermedia 'Fred Stoker' 75-2:20
nipponica 75-2:21*,21
 var. amabilis 75-2:21*,21
 var. oblonga-ovata (tsugifolia)
 75-2:22
Phyllostachys bambusoides 74-4:5
Pieris japonica 'Bisbee Dwarf' 76-2:21
Pinemat manzanita - see Arctostaphylos
nevadensis
Pinus contorta var. latifolia (N) 77-1:12
radiata 75-4:51
Pipsissewa - see Chimaphila umbellata
 Plant combinations 79-2:34
 Plant tolerance to
 Environmental stress 80-2:81
 Salt 83-2:23
 Planting, Fall 82-3:41
 Plants for Screening 83-2:34
Plectritis congesta (N) 80-1:9
Podocarpus alpinus 83-3:48
nivalis 82-2:38;83-3:47
 Poetry:
 "A Daughter's View of a Gardening
 Mother" 82-1:10
 "Pear Trees" 77-2:22
 "Seeds" 72-3:47
 "Winter" 74-5:1
 Pollination - Wildflowers 80-1:8
 Poppies, Alaskan 79-1:13
Populus tremuloides (N) 83-2:24*
Potentilla fruticosa 'Goldfinger' 77-3:38*,39
 Potted Plants, care of 78-2:34
 Natives 78-4:63
primula 79-1:11
 Potting, Sand 83-3:58
Primula, division of 77-2:30
 In Pots 79-1:11
minima 83-3:49*
 Proebsting, Dr. E. 83-3:43
 Propagation:
 Cold Frame Construction 74-3:3*
 Cuttings, Greenhouse 74-3:7
 Softwood & semi-hardwood 74-3:8
 Without greenhouse 74-3:11
Kalmia latifolia 74-3:7
Lewisia tweedyi (N) 82-4:83
 Maples 76-4:45,46
 Rhododendrons 74-1:4
Shepherdia argentea 80-3:52
Primula 77-2:30
 Ferns from spore 74-2:6
 Seed, care of 78-2:32
 cleaning 79-2:34
 collecting 78-1:12
Corokia cotoneaster 80-4:77
Kalmia latifolia 74-3:7
Kalmiopsis 75-4:59
 Maples 76-4:44;77-3:42
Myosotidium hortensia 78-1:5
Nothofagus fusca 80-2:39

Quercus garryana 78-2:32
Ribes sanguineum 78-1:3
Rhododendron 74-1:4
Rhodothamnus chamaecistus 77-3:46
Shepherdia argentea 80-3:52
Sowing 78-1:12;-3:54;-4:74;82-4:78;
 83-1:7,8
Trillium 77-3:46
Viola spp. 80-2:26
Workshop report 80-1:15
Pruning, sealing wounds 82-4:82
Prunus grayana 81-4:67
 x 'Hally Jolivette' 78-3:48
 For Bonsai 78-3:49
 serrulata 81-4:67
 triloba 82-3:61
Pseudotsuga menziesii 75-4:51*,51
Purshia tridentata (N) 78-4:70
Pyrola spp. of the N.W. 75-1:5*,5
Pyrrosia linearifolia 75-4:5

Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C. 80-3:41
Quercus cerris 78-3:47
 garryana (N) 80-1:5;80-3:**
 hypoleucoides 80-3:49*
 michauxii 78-3:47
 mongolica 81-4:67
 phillyraeoides 78-3:47
 reticulata 80-3:49*
 sadleriana 78-3:**,47
 suber 82-3:44,45*
 transplanting 78-3:55
 vaccinifolia 80-3:51*

Redwood - see Sequoia sempervirens
 Research, Horticultural, in China 82-3:51
 in China, Ferns 83-2:31
 Resource Village (Victoria Village) 78-2:17
Rhamnus purshiana (N) 77-1:5*
Rheum rhaponticum L. 77-2:31
Rhododendron
 Fertilizer 80-4:79
 Groundcovers for 74-1:5
 Hybrids - following 78-3:47
 Malaysian 78-3:47
 Seedlings from Yunnan 82-3:50
 Species - following
 Species definition 74-1:1
 Species Foundation 77-2:29; 81-1:1
 Rhododendron hybrids:
 'Juan de Fuca' 76-1:6;76-2:19*,19
 'Nakaharai' 74-4:5
 'Ptarmigan' 78-3:44
 'Sea Tac' 76-2:19
 'Chikor' 78-3:44
 Rhododendron species:
 albiflorum (N) 74-1:2;-3:12
 brachycarpum 82-1:13
 campylogynum var. myrtilloides 74-1:3
 ferrugineum 79-3:56
 fletcherianum 83-2:**
 japonicum 82-1:13
 keiskei 81-1:5*
 kiusianum album 77-3:40
 leucaspis 74-1:4

ludlowii 78-3:54
macrophyllum (N) 74-1:2
moupinense 74-1:3
occidentale (N) 77-1:12
orbiculare 81-1:5*
racemosum 81-1:5*
racemosum, compact form 77-4:63
recurvoides 74-1:2
saxifragoides 76-4:40,41*
sinogrande 81-1:**
valentinianum 83-1:16*
yakusimanum (Yakushmanum) 74-1:3
Rhodothamnus chamaecistus (seed) 77-3:46
Rhubarb - see "Rheum rhaponticum"
Rhus ambigua 82-3:53
 glabra (N) 77-1:5*
Ribes sanguineum (N) 78-1:**,1,2*
 Robinson, William 79-3:49
Rosa acicularis (N) 77-3:35
 blanda 77-4:53
 canina 77-4:53,55*
 carolina 77-4:55
 eglanteria (R. rubiginosa) 77-4:53
 foetida var. bicolor 77-4:53
 gymnocarpa (N) 77-3:**,35
 harisonii 77-4:54
 luciae var. onoiei 74-4:2
 macounii (R. woodsii) (N) 77-3:35
 multiflora 82-3:54
 nutkana (N) 77-3:**,35
 palustris 77-4:54
 pisocarpa (N) 77-3:35
 rugosa 78-1:10
 alba 78-1:10
 alba 'Blanc Double de Coubert'
 78-1:10
 setigera 77-4:54
 virginiana 77-4:55
 woodsii var. fendleri (R. woodsii)
 77-4:55,55*
 Rosso, Jerry 83-3:43
Rubus calycinoides 77-4:62
 chamaemorus (N) 81-3:59
 pedatus (N) 82-2:26
 spectabilis 'Olympic' (N) 76-1:7,8*

Sage - see Salvia officinalis
 Salt tolerant plants, trees, and shrubs
 83-2:23
Salvia officinalis 81-1:11,11*
 Sand, for potting 83-3:58
Saxifraga taylorii 80-3:42,43*
 tolmiei 78-2:22*
 Schenk, George - His Wild Garden 81-4:69
Schizandra chinensis 82-3:54
Schizocodon soldanelloides var. ilicifolia
 82-3:48,49*
 Schurr, Edith C. 78-1:11
 Sea Blush - see Plectritis congesta
 Seattle, A Bouquet For 82-3:56
Sedum spathulifolium (N) 78-4:63;80-1:17
 Seed - see Propagation
 Seed Exchange - see N.O.H.S.
Senecio newcombei 78-4:59,60*
Sequoiadendron giganteum 78-4:59,60*
 Shasta Lily - see Lilium washingtonianum
 var. minus 77-4:49

- Shepherd, Sir Peter 82-1:13
 Shepherd, Theodosia 79-3:50
Shepherdia argentea (N) 80-3:52
 canadensis (N) 78-4:70;81-4:71
Shortia galacifolia 77-1:15
 soldanelloides (Schizocodon) 82-2:26
 uniflora 77-1:15
 Sikkim Expedition 83-3:54
 Silk Tassle Tree - see Carrya elliptica
Skimmia japonica var. repens 82-1:11
 Skunk Cabbage - see Lysichitum
 Slide Storage 80-1:16
 Snake-bark Maple - see Acer capillipes
 Snowberry, creeping - see Symphoricarpos
 mollis var. hesperius
Soldanella villosa 76-2:27
 alpina 76-2:27
Sophora arizonica 80-2:38,38*
 secundiflora 80-2:38
Sorbus alnifolia 81-4:68
 cashmeriana 83-1:5
 commixta 81-4:68
 koehneana 83-1:4
 matsumurana 81-4:67
 prattii 83-1:4
 vilmorinii 83-1:4
 Spagnum bog 75-4:48
Spiraea lemoinei 74-4:4
Stewartia rostrata 78-3:42*,43
Styrax japonica 76-1:4
 Sugar maple - see Acer saccharum
 Sumac - see Rhus glabra
 Swamp Rose - see Rosa palustris
 Sweet Briar (or Eglantine) Rose - see
 Rosa eglanteria
 Swiss National Park 80-4:66
 Sycamore, 1838 Colossal 82-4:82
Symphoricarpos mollis var. hesperius (N)
 78-4:68
Synthyris missurica (N) 81-2:30*
 reniformis (N) 77-1:13*,13
 schizantha (N) 81-3:59

 Tasmanian Waratah - see Telopea truncata
Taxodium distichum 78-4:59,60*
 Taxonomy 82-2:37,39
Taxus brevifolia (N) 76-3:30,30*
Telopea truncata 79-3:55
 Texas Mountain Laurel - see Sophora
 secundiflora
 Tiger Lily - see Lilium columbianum
 Transplanting:
 In the Fall 83-3:49,58
 Out of Season 82-1:16
 Trees, Salt tolerant 83-2:27
 Staking 82-4:65
 Water Consumption 76-4:47
Tricyrtis affinis 82-2:28
 latifolia 82-2:28
Trifolium sp. 77-1:5*
 Trillium:
 Seed 77-3:46
 hibbersonii (N) 76-3:33*,33
 kamschaticum 82-2:28
 ovatum (N) 76-2:18
 'Kenmore' (N) 76-1:7,8*
 'Tillicum' 76-1:7,8*
 rivale (N) 76-3:34
 smallii 82-2:28
 tschonoskii 82-2:28
Tripetaleia bracteata 82-1:12
 paniculata 82-1:12
Tripterospermum japonicum 82-2:27
Trochodendron aralioides 74-4:5
Tropaeolum peregrinum 83-2:34,39
 speciosum 83-1:*,1;-2:39
 Troughs, Gardening with 76-1:10
Tsuga heterophylla (N) for
 Bonsai 74-2:16
 'Iron Springs' (N) 76-1:7
 for Bonsai 75-2:17
 mertensiana (N) 75-2:16
 Tukey, Dr. H. B., Jr. 79-3:37;
 82-4:70

 Urban Horticulture, Center for 1974
 extra 80-4:61;82-1:5;83-3:41,42*

Vaccinium caespitosum (N) 78-4:64*
 macrocarpon 80-4:*,65,65*,79
 moupinense 74-4:4
 oxycoccus (N) 80-4:65
 parvifolium (N) 76-2:25*,26
 scoparium (N) 78-4:70
 uliginosum var. alpinum (N)
 81-4:76
Veronica grandiflora 78-1:8*,9
Viburnum furcatum 82-1:12
 Vines, climbers - Japan 82-3:53
Viola adjunca (N) 80-2:25
 var. bellidifolia (N)
 80-2:25,27*
 beckwithii 80-2:24
 cuneata 80-2:26,27*
 douglasii 80-2:25
 flettii (N) 80-2:26,27*
 glabella (N) 80-2:22,23*
 hallii (N) 80-2:23*,24
 macloskeyi 80-2:22
 nuttallii praemorsa (N) 80-2:24
 var. vallicola (N) 80-2:24
 pedunculata 80-2:25
 purpurea var. venosa (N) 80-2:26
 sempervirens (N) 80-2:22,23*
 sheltonii 80-2:25
 trinervata (N) 80-2:25
 species, propagation of 80-2:26
 Violet Jelly 80-1:14
Vitis coignetiae 82-3:55
 Vocational Gardening, Monroe Reformatory
 75-4:45

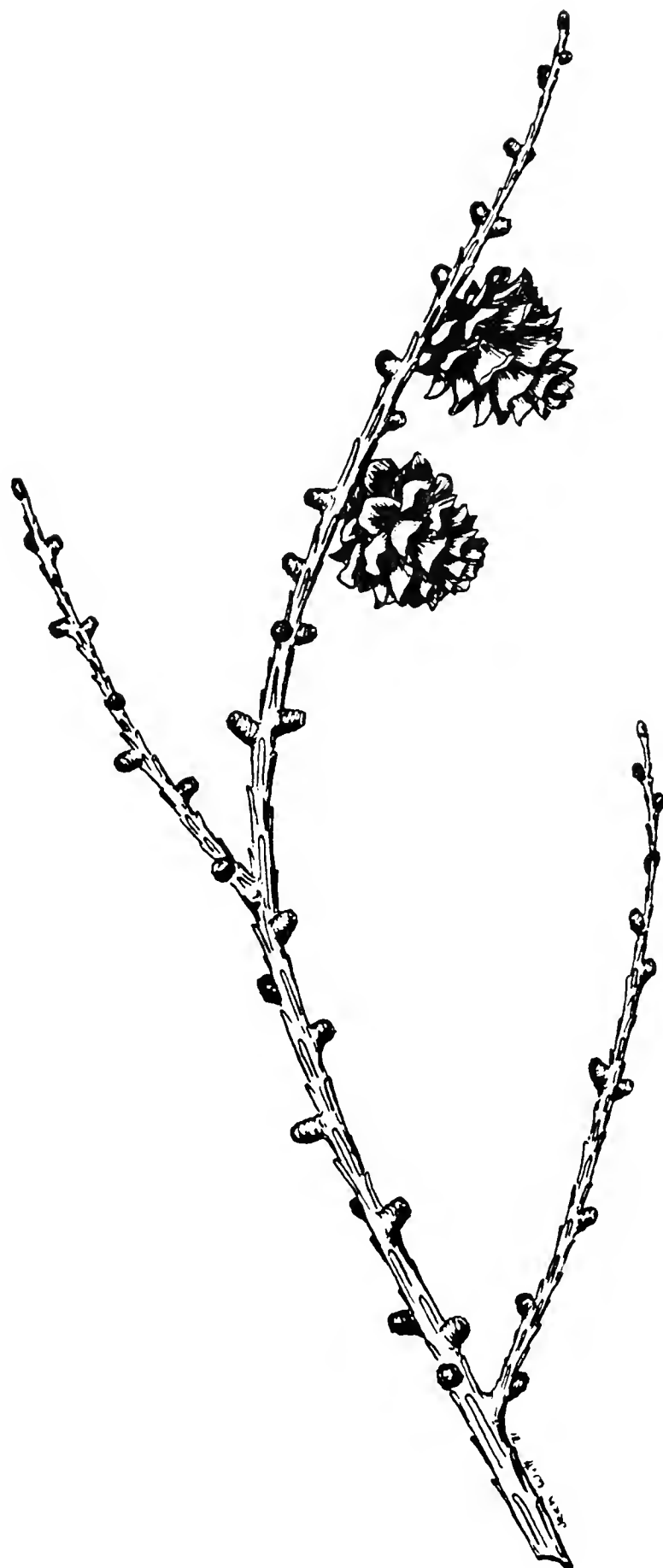
 Wagner, W. H., Dr. 82-2:22
 Waterfront Trails 74-5:8
 Wax Myrtle - see Myrica californica
 Webb, Jane 79-3:48
 Weeds 76-4:53
 Weyerhaeuser Company - Rhododendron
 Species Foundation 81-1:2
 Wicopy Tree - see Dirca palustris

"Winter", poem 74-5:1
 Winter bouquet 84-4:**
 Winter flowers 74-5:3
 Wild Flowers of Gulf Islands, B.C.
 80-1:4
 Wild Garden, George Schenk's 81-4:69
 Wild ginger - see Asarum hartwegii
 Witt, Joseph A. Public Service Award
 82-3:59
 Worms - see Earthworms
 Wott, Dr. John 83-3:43

Xerophyllum asphodeloides 80-3:44
tenax 80-3:44,45*

Yellowknife, N.W. Territory 81-4:71
 Yew - see Taxus brevifolia

Zigadenus venenosus (N) 80-1:**,7,7*



Larix leptolepis
 Japanese larch
 Jean G. Witt

ARBORETUM GETS "SPRING CLEANING" THANKS TO MUSEUM SERVICES GRANTS

March 14, 1985

The Washington Park Arboretum is a living museum, says Arboretum Director H. B. Tukey, not just another urban park or nature preserve. That is why, for the first time in many years, federal funds have been awarded to help renovate the 50-year-old plant "museum."

The federal Institute of Museum Services has awarded two grants to the Center for Urban Horticulture, which administers the Arboretum. One grant covers \$45,000 in operations costs, the other is a \$25,000 conservation grant to begin renovating the plant collection by removing 200 "weed" trees and restoring the plantings beneath them.

Most of these trees were already on the land in 1936 when the Olmsted Brothers laid out the Arboretum. Now these trees have outgrown the original design, blocking vistas and putting the plan out of balance.

"Some trees that were originally moderate in size are now very large and collections planted underneath them are suffering," Tukey said. "Other trees such as big leaf maple are dying or already dead as part of their regular life cycle."

The overgrowth has shut out light to many rhododendron and other flowering shrub collections, diminishing the bloom and distorting the shape of the shrubs. Poor air circulation beneath these trees makes many plants vulnerable to disease in our moist climate. And the weed trees rob the other plants of needed nutrients and water.

Like an art museum conserving and restoring valuable paintings, the Arboretum is using the grant to preserve and restore its collection of woody plants, which includes more than 5,200 taxa of trees, shrubs and vines.

For example, the Arboretum's holly collection, once one of the finest in the nation, has declined in part because of the overgrowth of trees. "This work will open it up a bit and allow us to come in with new varieties developed over the past 20 years," Tukey said.

Removing the trees will probably take four months, said Tukey, and is delicate and expensive work. Often, branches must be cut off and lowered by rope, and the trunk removed in sections. "Depending on the size and location it can take three or four days to remove one tree," he explained.

Plants beneath the trees are vulnerable to damage and in some cases will be completely dug up, transferred to a greenhouse and then replanted after the trees are removed.

While the conservation grant will improve life for the plant collection, the \$45,000 operations grant will improve the educational and interpretive

materials for the Arboretum users, including descriptive brochures and interpretive signs. Other funds have helped urban horticulture staff develop courses on topics such as pruning, pest control and plant disease.

The horticultural renovation of the Arboretum will probably take 15 years, Tukey added, and cost about \$1 million. As in many other American arboreta, decades of growth have made some plant collections overcrowded, senescent or in need of upgrading to reflect new horticultural knowledge.



DAVID HANCOCKS JOINS ARBORETUM PROJECT

David Hancocks, former director of the Woodland Park Zoo, has just joined the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture as a consultant in developing interpretive materials for the Washington Park Arboretum, which is managed by the Center. With a \$45,000 grant from the federal Institute of Museum Services, Hancocks and Center staff will create maps, signs, brochures, and other materials to help visitors explore and understand the Arboretum.

"We're delighted to have the benefit of David Hancocks' talent and experience on this project," says H. B. Tukey, Jr., Director of the Center. The Arboretum's guided tours, he explains, are excellent, but visitors who prefer walking the grounds on their own need more direction and information. Hancocks' first job will be developing an overall concept for interpreting the Arboretum plant collections to this "self-guided" public. Then he will work with Arboretum staff as project manager, overseeing production of the various elements of the plan.

"This is a very appealing project," says Hancocks, who was trained as a landscape architect, "but also a very challenging one." Public education, he believes, ought to be the major purpose of institutions like the Zoo and the Arboretum--"but people visit places such as the Arboretum to enjoy the plants and the natural environment, not to read signs." The challenge is to find devices that can guide and educate visitors without being obtrusive or intimidating. "At least," says Hancocks, "we're starting from scratch. The IMS grant is a wonderful opportunity to develop a total, consistent approach."

While at the Zoo, Hancocks pioneered the development of natural habitats for animals, such as the African Savanna. He recently collaborated with architects Gordon Walker and Grant Jones on a new master plan for the Seattle Center. The Arboretum project will be among Hancocks' last in Seattle, as he plans to move with his family to Australia in mid-summer.



N.O.H.S. FINANCIAL REVIEW 1984

OPERATIONS:

| | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| MEMBERSHIP - Income | \$10,996.47 | |
| - Expense | 757.46 | \$10,239.01 |
| ADMINISTRATION - Expense | | (279.23) |
| JOURNAL - Income | 487.00 | |
| - Expense | 11,306.20 | (10,819.20)* |
| NOTE PAPER SALES - Income | | 22.50 |
| DUES - To Horticultural Organizations - Exp. | | (200.00) |
| ANNUAL MEETING - Income | 9.50 | |
| - Expense | 348.91 | (339.41)** |
| YEARBOOK - Expense | | (36.00) |
| BY-LAWS PRINTING - Expense | | (62.77) |
| ACCOUNTANT - Expense | | (490.00) |
| INSURANCE - Expense | | (218.40) |

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| LECTURE SERIES - Income | 6,056.00 | |
| - Expense | 5,385.92 | 670.08 |
| SEED EXCHANGE - Income | 269.75 | |
| - Expense | 315.25 | (45.50) |
| GARDEN TOURS - Income | 470.00 | |
| - Expense | 197.93 | 272.07 |
| INTEREST - Merrill, Lynch - Income | | 4,384.64 |

PHILANTHROPIC:

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| PLANT SALE - Income | 11,375.30 | |
| - Expense | 6,430.98 | 4,944.32 |
| FERN SALE - Income | 3,310.80 | |
| - Expense | 1,368.88 | 1,941.92 |
| CONTRIBUTIONS - Exp. Rhod. Species Found. | | (1,000.00) |
| Center for Urb. Hort. | | (10,000.00) |
| TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | | (1,015.97) |
| MERRILL, LYNCH BACK-UP FUND | | 44,898.04 |
| MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS - Separated | | 200.00 |

SPECIAL PROJECT:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| CUH OPENING DINNER - Proceeds | 25,572.71 |
| CONTRIBUTION - CUH - Expense | (25,572.71) |

SEGREGATED FUNDS:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| EDUCATIONAL FUND | 68,289.84*** |
| MEMORIAL FUND | 1,646.22 |
| LECTURE SERIES FUND | 4,109.33 |

*Includes publishing the revised By-Laws, and special issue celebrating the opening of the Center for Urban Horticulture.

**This annual meeting was held after a lecture, therefore there were no additional charges to those attending.

***The Educational Fund will continue unspent until it reaches \$100,000.00, after which the interest will be used to forward horticultural education.

BOOK REVIEW: ROCK PLANTS FOR SMALL GARDENS, Royton E. Heath, Collingridge Books, 1982; 134 pages, 3 appendix and index, 16 line drawings, 54 color and black and white photographs by the author. Price £7.95, hardback.

Royton Heath's book Rock Plants for Small Gardens is a marvelous resource for anyone truly pursuing the growing of small plants. Mr. Heath has condensed the needed information into an abbreviated format. It takes some concentration to work; however, with use, this small-sized guide becomes familiar and helpful in sorting out the needs of the 1,000 plants discussed.

The neophyte gardener may not want to begin with this as his only resource, but in Heath's own words, the "dainty, delicate, bewitching charm" of the smallest gems create a reaction in the beholder..... a desire to grow the plants. But how to see the fully beauty of small plants and to meet their rather specific needs? This is where the book is really helpful. There is much information on the Trough Concept of growing and very complete descriptions of several ways to build the trough or scree frame, the "Billiard Table, rock pot or peat bed." He includes valuable information on the composts needed for growing both the seed and plants.

Heat discusses in layman's terms the procedures to follow with considerations ranging from seed dormancy and germination to composts and suggested companions. There is a marvelous section on propagation with solid advice to the grower on what to do and how to do it. Methods of seed sowing with divisions and cuttings are fully discussed along with pitfalls and pests. Dwarf conifers take another chapter with valuable information on pruning, position and propagation.

The love of native plants began for me with family camping and many backpacking trips into our forests and mountains. The singular beauty of each plant would draw my admiration and, as a photographer, I studied each discovered species. My appreciation became much greater with recognition of the tough character needed to survive in many of the preferred growing sites. This book takes into account the specific and controlled conditions that are often needed for many of these plants. Royton Heath's guide should be a great aid to success with these plants in small gardens and scree conditions.

Sylvia Duryee



THE 1985 SEED EXCHANGE

Your committee is interested in hearing of your successes and failures (not many we hope). Any problems? Would you be interested in a couple of hours spent on seed sowing with composts and pans made available? Is there a special species of which you would like seed? Let us know.....Sylvia Duryee and Marge Baird.

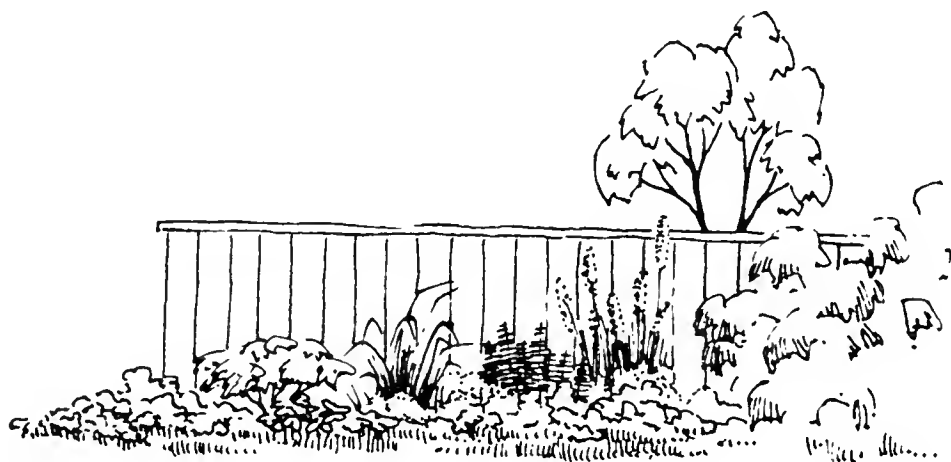
The following are seed growing formulas as worked out and published in Royton Heath's book *Collectors Alpine*.

1. All ordinary and easy types of seed
 - 2 parts sterile loam
 - 1 part sieved peat
 - 1 part sharp (traction) or Cornish sand
2. More difficult and rare plants needing open airy soil
 - 1 part heavy loam
 - 1 leaf mold
 - 2 parts sharp sand
3. Shade lovers and ericaceous plants
 - 1 part leaf mold, 1 part peat, 1 part sharp sand

ADDITIONAL NOTES: Measure by bulk, keep all fibrous material, cut up if needed (do not sieve, but rub down between the hands), (the fibers help to keep the compost from packing).

Add 1-1/2 oz. of superphosphate to each bushel (about 30 gallons).

Use sterile seed pans with a good layer of drainage material in the bottom.....S.C.D.



Tidbits

by Ladybug



GAYLUSSACIA: When I was first confronted by a plant of this genus, I thought, what an odd name. Yet, there was something vaguely familiar about it. So I harked back to my school days and recalled a Gay-Lussac's Law. This was no Murphy's or Parkinson's type of law, but a statement regarding the physical properties of gases.

So I looked it up and, sure enough, Gay-Lussac (the name is spelled with a hyphen) was an eminent French chemist in the early 19th century. Also, he had apparently minored in Botany and had some very good friends in the plant world. They had commemorated his achievements by giving his name to this genus.

So he has been immortalized in two fields of knowledge. This is quite an accomplishment. It was a nice gesture by his friends except that hardly anybody now recognizes his name.

A few years ago, while on a garden tour in Britain, we visited a large estate with an imposing classical style manor house which was open for viewing by garden visitors. In a gallery along with other objects of interest was a museum-type glass display case with an exhibit of notebooks and manuscripts in longhand French writing. They were Gay-Lussac's. He had apparently been a favorite guest of the lord. It's a small world.

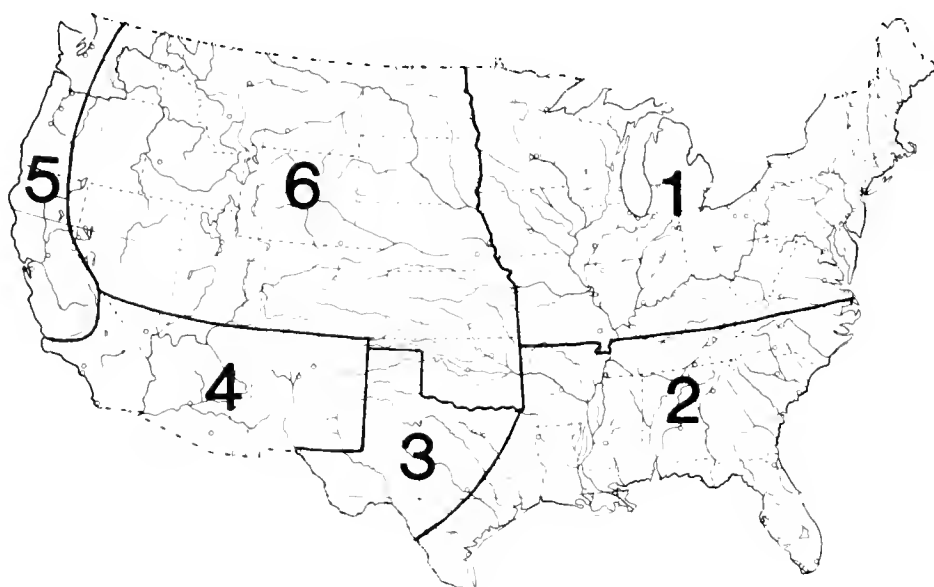
C. Robin



*Calypso
bulbosa*

In loving memory

Dr. Henry T. Skinner



Wild Flowers of the United States

by

H. W. Rickett

An invaluable source of information on the wild flowers of the United States, these classics written by Dr. Harold W. Rickett are botanically accurate yet easily understandable to the lay public.

These handsome, oversized (10" x 13") volumes, printed by McGraw-Hill Book Company, are newly clothbound and each contains over 1,000 full color plant illustrations plus

- ✓ an easy to understand introduction to wild flower identification,
- ✓ an illustrated glossary of basic plant terms,
- ✓ a simple chart for the identification of the various plant groups,
- ✓ the vernacular and scientific names, descriptions, flowering times and distribution of the plants treated,
- ✓ an index, and more!!!



These beautiful volumes are being offered at the following prices:

| <u>Volume</u> | <u>Contents</u> | <u>Was</u> | <u>Our price</u> |
|---|--|--------------|------------------|
| 1 | Northeastern States (1966; 2 books; 560 pp) | \$69.50 | \$54.00 |
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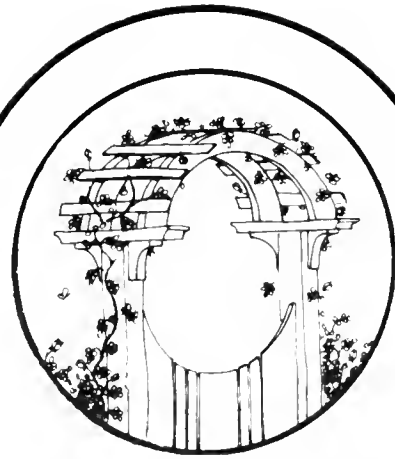
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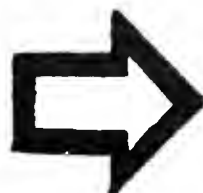
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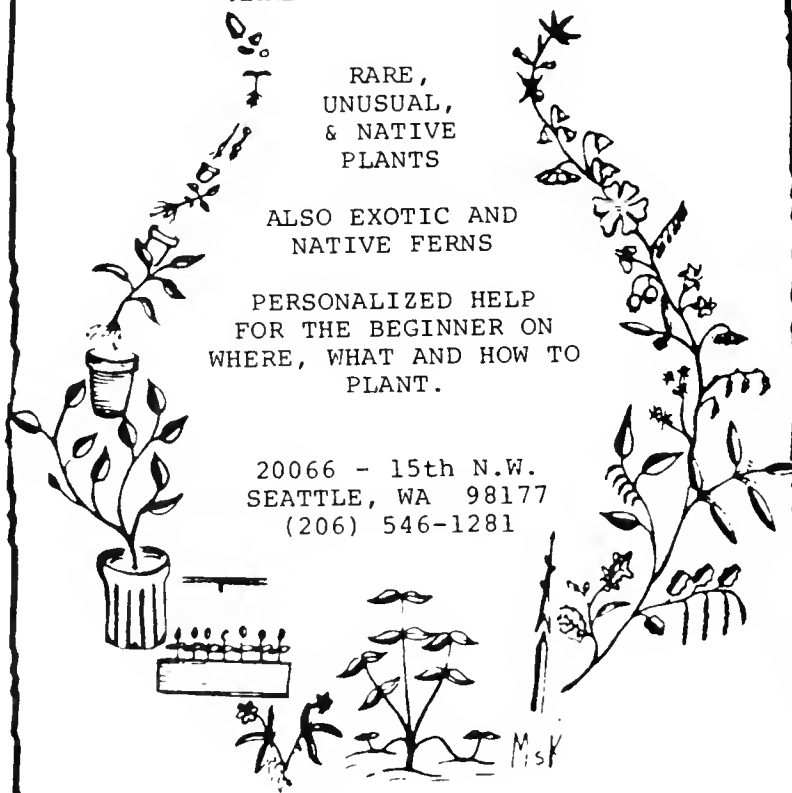
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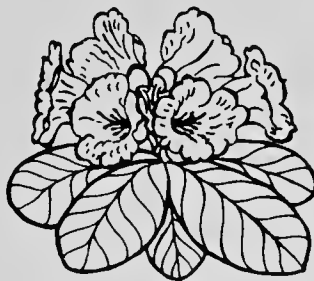
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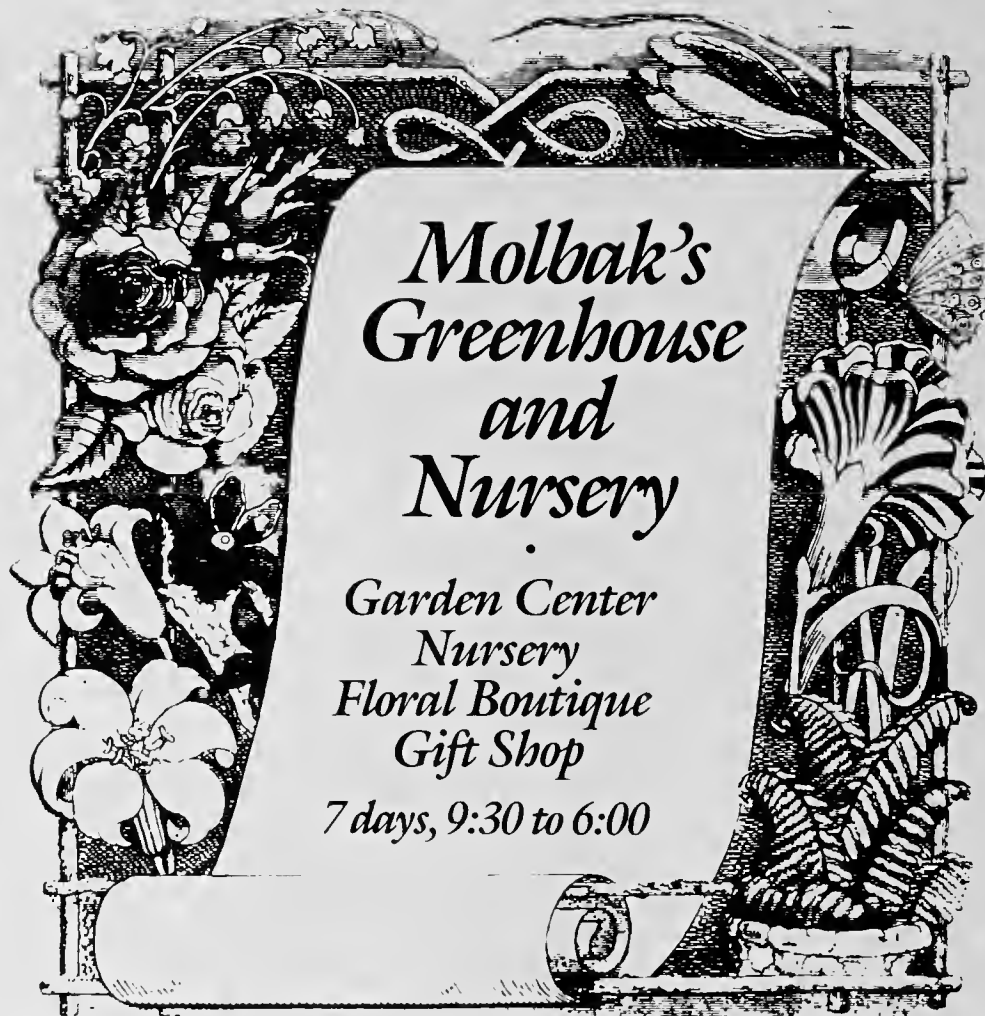
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